

NEWS RELEASE from

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CHICAGO DELEGATION SECURES MORE THAN \$448 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR VITAL CTA PROJECTS

*Money allocated for essential Blue and Brown Line
improvements and expansion*

WASHINGTON, D.C -- Members of the Chicago Delegation announced today that they have secured more than \$448 million for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) as part of the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU), a six-year, \$275 billion highway and transit funding bill. The legislation passed the House today by a vote of 357 to 65.

For Illinois, TEA-LU provides a total of \$7.12 billion in formula highway funds and \$2.56 billion in formula transit funds.

The allocation of these vital resources is the culmination of a multi-year, bipartisan effort, led by Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) and U.S Representative William O. Lipinski (D-Ill.), to secure funds for Chicago's metropolitan rail projects.

Rep. Lipinski, the top Democrat on the House Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines and a key architect of the legislation, called its passage, "a victory for Illinois and an important opportunity to address congestion problems and tackle our infrastructure needs."

As part of the initiative, Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-Ill.), a long-time champion of improved public transportation, secured an earmark of \$213.8 million over three years for the Chicago Douglas Branch Reconstruction along the CTA's Blue Line.

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In an effort to repair the Douglas Branch, which serves more than 27,000 passengers daily, the new federal funding allows the CTA to address long overdue construction and renovation initiatives that will rebuild the rail structure and six stations. The project also will help improve overall operating efficiency along the six-mile stretch of the Blue Line.

“Six years ago, many thought that the funding of this project would be impossible,” said Gutierrez. “However, through our hard work, perseverance and the leadership of people like Congressman Lipinski, Blue Line riders today are on track to receive reliable, viable and easily accessible public transportation options to get them from their homes to schools, workplaces, stores, friends and family members.”

Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-Ill.) was also key in garnering funds for the Blue Line, “Residents of the 7th Congressional district and citizens from all over the state will benefit greatly from this legislation. All of Illinois owe Speaker Dennis Hastert and U.S. Representative Bill Lipinski a debt of gratitude for carrying the day for our state,” stated Congressman Davis.

In addition to funding for the Blue Line, Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.) helped secure \$234.67 million in funding over the life of the bill for the Ravenswood Expansion Project along the CTA's Brown Line.

Emanuel said, "This critical investment in the CTA's Brown Line is important to Chicago's economic vitality and will provide a vital link for families and businesses in the neighborhoods on Chicago's Northwest side."

The funding will be used to expand and reconstruct eighteen stations along the Brown Line's 9.1-mile route, which serves more than 60,000 commuters each day.

Because of the Brown Line's age, it can only accommodate six-car trains, and not the eight-car trains used elsewhere on the CTA system.

As part of the project, passenger platforms will be extended and all stations will be brought into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, signaling and communications will also be upgraded along the Brown line.

Congressman Bobby Rush (D-Ill.) also worked to bring funds to Chicago, “This much needed legislation will fund the South Side of Chicago's critical transportation infrastructure by easing congestion and improving transportation services on CTA's Red line, and creating vital access to public transportation,” Rush stated.

Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-Ill.), following passage of TEA LU stated, "TEA LU will significantly improve transit access and capacity for the residents of the Southside of Chicago-which will provide for greater economic development and job creation in the Chicago area."

“The large increases in transit funds will not only be a gain for current transit riders, but will also reduce congestion on our roadways by attracting new commuters to ride CTA,” added Lipinski.

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